

Reporting a Fetal Death to the Center for Health Statistics:

1. Determine if there was fetal death or live birth with subsequent death.

Whether a delivery is a fetal death or is a live birth, a medical determination must be made.

What is a fetal death?

- When a fetus dies unintentionally, **prior to** the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother.
- The death is indicated by the fact that the fetus does not breathe or show **any** other evidence of life. Evidence of life includes beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord or definite movement of the voluntary muscles.

If a baby is born alive and dies shortly after birth:

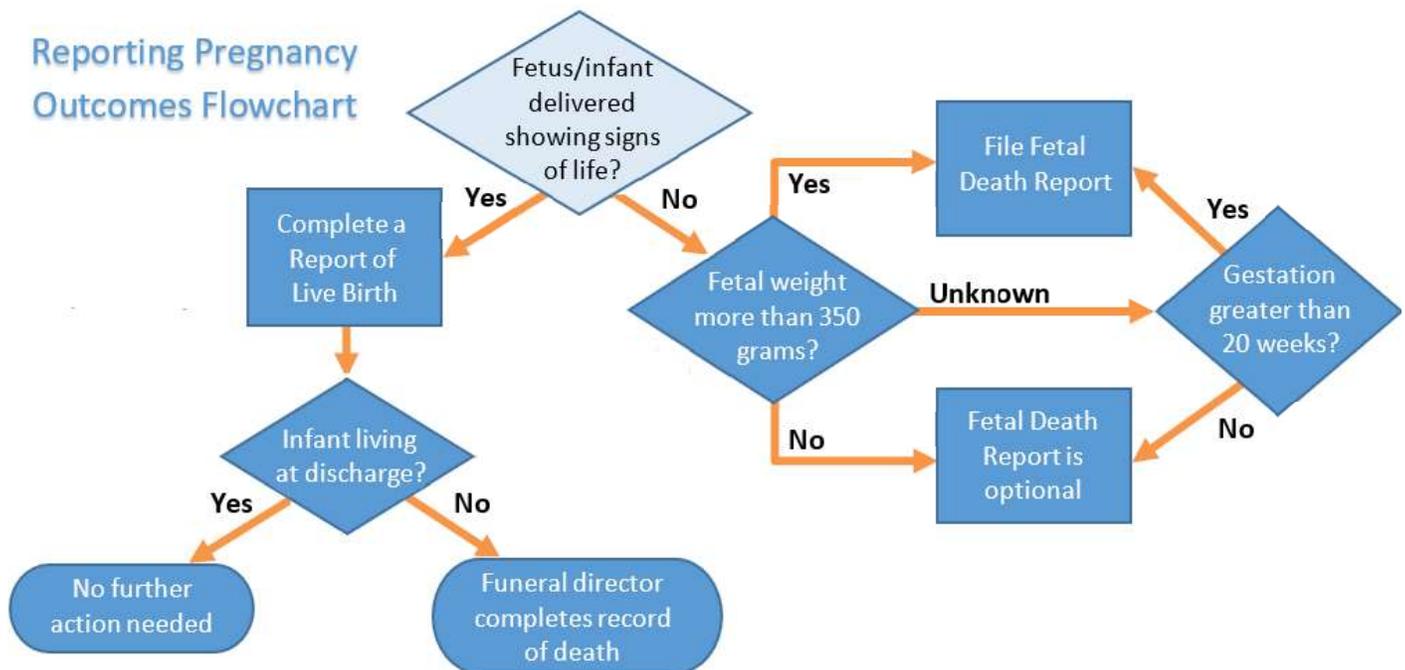
- **DO NOT** file a fetal death report.
- **DO NOT** give parents or funeral home a fetal disposition form (form is not legally valid for a live birth).
- **DO** complete a report of live birth (funeral home will complete the report of death).

2. Determine if fetal death report is required to be filed.

A fetal death is required to be reported to the Center for Health Statistics when:

- The fetal weight is 350 grams or more.
- If weight is unknown, the gestation period is greater than 20 weeks.
- If the report is not required to be filed, the family can request that a fetal death report be completed for commemorative certificate purposes.

Reporting Pregnancy Outcomes Flowchart



3. Determine if disposition permit must be completed.

- A disposition permit is **always** required **if fetal remains are removed from the facility** where the delivery occurred, regardless of whether a fetal death report is filed.

Disposition permits can be found in OVERS, by clicking on
 'Forms' → 'Print Forms' →
 'Fetal Death Disposition Permit (45-3D)'